

The Caledonian Mercury.

Edinburgh, Monday, March 14, 1726.

The rest of Mr. Ashton's strange Deliverance from a desolate Island, begun in our last.

AMong other Serpents, there's one small Sort called Owlers, which when they lie at length, look like old fallen Stocks of Trees, covered with a short Moss; Mr. Ashton was very near one of these before he discovered it to be a living Creature by its opening a Mouth wide enough to have thrown a Hat into it; for they are as big round as a Man's Waist, and 12 or 14 Foot long; but 'tis not venomous.

This, as well as several other small Islands hereabouts, called Keys, was very much infested with Muskettoes, and the Sea with Crocodiles. In this Condition, and with this Society and Fellowship, Mr. Ashton spent near 9 Months, without Converse with any living Creature, the Parrots there having not been taught to speak. Here he linger'd out one Day after another, without Business, Diversion, or Amusement, except gathering up his Food, rambling from Hill to Hill, from Island to Island, gazing upon the Water, and staring on the Face of the Sky. He built several Huts, or rather Arbours, with Palmetto Leaves, to defend from the scorching Sun by Day, and from the shivering Dews by Night. His chief Hut was near the Sea-side, that he might be the more ready to look out, and have the Advantage of the Sea Breeze, which both the Heat & the Vermine required. He made a Canoe out of a hollow Piece of Bamboo, and putting it under his Breast and Arms, swam to a small Key, clear of all Woods and free of Vermin. Hither he retired during the Heat of the Day, and binding his Frock and Trowsers about his Head, he could not carry over Wood and Leaves to make a Hut. Once he had like to have been born down by the Current, at another Time to have been devoured by a Shark, which struck him in the Thigh just as he set his Foot on Shore. One of his great Difficulties lay in travelling bare-foot thro' the Woods to hunt for Food, the Ground being all covered with sharp Sticks and Stones, and upon the Beech among the sharp Shells, which made such Gashes in his Feet, that, unable to walk, sometimes he lay down and wept an Hour together at the Extremity of his Pain. Sometimes

he spent a whole Day together leaning his Back against a Tree, with his Face to the Sea, to look out for the passing of a Vessel.

At length he grew very weak and faint, as well as sore and bruised, and at that Time a wild Boar made at him, upon which he caught hold of the Limb of a Tree, and drew up his Body with it, and while he was in this hanging Posture, the Boar struck at him, but his Tusks only catch'd in his tatter'd Trowsers, out of which he tore a Piece and then went off. Some Times he was so weak, that he fell down as if struck with a dead Sleep, never expecting to rise again; and at length he forgot not only the Day of the Week, but the Month too. Under all this dreadful Distress, he had no healing Balsam to apply to his Feet, no Cordials to revive his fainting Spirits, nor any Possibility of coming at a Fire, which the cool Winds and great Rains, setting in about the middle of October, now began to call for, so that with the Chilness of the Air, the Wetness of the Season, and his living only upon Raw Fruit, he was a very great Sufferer, till after abundance of Trials, which quite tired him, he found a Way to fetch Fire by rubbing of two Sticks together; the Account of which Mr. Ashton has published in his Book, for the Service of any that may hereafter be in his Condition.

Having pass'd about Nine Months in this lonely, melancholly, wounded and languishing Condition, he spy'd a small Canoe coming towards him, with a Man in it, who at first started with Surprise at Mr. Ashton's Garb and Countenance, but upon a more thorow View of him, he landed, and did him many good Offices with his Gun, Ammunition and Dog, which he brought with him, designing to spend the Residue of his Days here, because the Spaniards threatned to burn him: But on the 3d Day, as he was going out in his Canoe among the Islands to kill some Deer and wild Hogs Mr. Ashton being too weak to go with him) he was overfet, as 'tis suppos'd, by a sudden Gust of Wind and Rain, because he never saw him more.

His Companion having left him a Knife, Tinder, Tobacco, Tongs and Flint, he was in a Way to live

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live better than before, because he could make a Fire, and cut up a Tortoise to broil it, and now ~~and then~~ catch a Dish of Crab fish, which he took in a very odd Manner: He waded in the Water up to his Waist, with a lighted Bundle of Sticks, which the Crab fish espied at a Distance, crawled directly under it, and then lay still at his Feet; when, with a forked Stick, he struck the Fish.

Two or three Months after he had lost his Companion, he found a small Canoe as he was ranging along the Shore, when he fancied himself Admiral of the neighbouring Seas, as well as sole Possessor and chief Commander of the Islands. And having laid in a Quantity of Grapes, Figs and Tortoise, and taken some Fireworks with him, he put off to some of the more distant and larger Islands in the Gulph of Honduras, to see how they were inhabited. Discovering a Sloop at the East End of the Island of Bonaco, he was afraid she was a Pyrate; and therefore, fastning his Canoe at the West End, he travell'd down towards them by Land, in which he spent almost two Days and Nights, the Woods and Bushes being so thick in some Places, that he was forced to crawl upon his Hands and Knees for half a Mile together. Being tir'd with his tedious March, he leaned against a Tree, and fell asleep, but was soon awakened by the Noise of Guns, and saw a large Canoe full of Men firing at him. The Men, who were Spaniards, call'd out to him, promising him good Quarter; but such was his Surprize, that he could not hearken to their Offer, but ran into the Woods, and thence to his Canoe, sailing to his old Island, where he lived alone for 7 Months more from the Day he lost his Companion, spending his Time as usually, hunting for his Food, till June 1724, when two Canoes made into his Island; to which he was retired for Shelter from the Musketoes and other pestering Insects. He was at first afraid of the Men on board, till they told him they were come from the Bay. They sent one Man ashore first, who as he drew near Mr. Aston, started back, frightened to see such a poor, ragged, lean, wan, forlorn, wild, miserable Object so near him; but upon recovering himself, went and took Aston by the Hand, and they fell to embracing one another with Surprize and Wonder, and a Sort of Extasy of Joy. After which, the Man took Aston up in his Arms, and carried him down to their Canoe, where astonished as they were at the Sight of him, they received him with great Tenderness. They gave him a Spoonful of Rum to recruit his fainting Spirits; but being so long used to drink nothing but Water, it threw him into a Fit, out of

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which he soon revived. They also clothed him, and gave him a Night-gown to defend him from the Dews.

Mr. Aston gives a particular Account in his Book, of &c. To which we refer the Reader.

The rest of Wye's Letter, March 3.

By the Advices from the French and Flanders Mails which arrived Yesterday, we find, That the Poles cannot yet be prevailed upon to give Satisfaction to the Protestants, and seem to give Defiance to all the Menaces which have been made on that Subject by the King of Prussia and other Powers. 'Tis said that the Commanders and other Officers the Crown, are ordered to get all Things in readiness for the March of the Polish Forces towards the Frontiers of Brandenburg. They are under great Expectation of a powerful Diversion to be given in their Favour by the Czarina, whose Alliance with the Emperor is said now to be as good as concluded. But both these Powers may probably find some Work for employing their Arms against the Turks, who are making vast Preparations. And 'tis assured for certain, That the Russian Minister has left Constantinople.

We do not hear that the King of Sardinia has yet declared into which of the Treaties he designs to enter; 'tis thought by some, that, besides the Sentiments of the British Parliament thereon, he wants to know whether there's any Likelihood of an Accommodation, as is reported, between the Crowns of France and Spain. Mean Time we have an Account, that on Wednesday last the Lady and Brother of the Sardinian Ambassador landed at Dover from France.

On Saturday last the Mob rose at Northampton, on Account of the Farmers keeping up the Corn in the Inns, and not bringing it into Market, in order to raise or keep up the Price, and cut several Sacks, whereby a considerable Quantity of Corn was spilt, so that the rest was soon brought into the Market; and in order to prevent the Mob rising on the same Account at Towcester, the Cryer made a Proclamation for the Farmers to sell their Corn publicly in the usual Place, which had the proposed Effect.

By a Holland Mail just arrived, we are advised, That the Imperial Ambassador at the Court of Madrid, is in such Esteem there, that the Prime Ministers act every Thing in Concert with him; That the Emperor will this Year have an Army consisting 98,000 Foot and 32,000 Horse; but as to the new Treaty between the Emperor and King of Spain,

no Mention is made thereof, nor of their putting in Execution the Project said to have been concerted by the said Treaty. Mean Time the two Fire-ships which are to attend our Fleet are completely Rigged and fitted out at Deptford, and two Bomb Ketches are also preparing. Admiral Hosier will sail for the West Indies in 18 Days. The Reverend Mr. Vincent was Yesterday chosen Lecturer of St. Dunstons, in Room of Dr. Lupton. And the Honourable Mr. Collier is again elected Member of Parliament for Chippen Wycomb. The Commons did not sit this Day. The Duke of Kingston is very much indisposed. Colonel Gordon is appointed Governor of Pennsylvania, in Room of Sir William Keith. Yesterday a Boat with four Dutchmen, over-set at St. Catharines and were all drowned.
S. S. Stock 105. Annuities 100 per Cent.

Wye's Letter verbatim, London, March 8.

Since our last arrived in Mail from France.

SOME People pretend to doubt, whether it be true that Sweden has acceded to the Treaty of Hanover, because of the reciprocal Guarantee for protecting and maintaining the Dominions, whereof each of the Allies shall be actually in Possession at the Time of signing this Alliance. By which the Swedes say, they deprive themselves of laying any Claims to, or using any Means for the Recovery of those Countries and Towns formerly taken from them. Besides, such Accession may draw upon them the Displeasure of the Czarina, who is a near Neighbour, and very powerful; and who, it was lately said, had proposed, for certain Causes, a Treaty of Commerce very advantageous to Sweden. But what can they say, when they see this important Piece of News inserted in the Gazette, and when they shall likewise hear of its being communicated to the Parliament? Both which may very probably soon be done.

We are also given to understand, that the Danes are upon the Point of taking the like Resolution with Sweden.

This Day the Commons read a Petition of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, praying for a Bill to enable him to purchase the Reversion of certain Estates, granted to his Grandfather by King Charles II. which, after some Debates was ordered accordingly; But resolved to receive no more Petitions for selling Lands belonging to the Crown.

Mr. Dundas late Advocate for Scotland, moved for the Examinations relating to the Riot at Glasgow to be laid before the House. But this was op-

posed by Mr. Forbes the present Lord Advocate, and Sir Robert Walpole, who said, that a Curtain ought now to be drawn over that Affair. And one of these two Gentlemen said, it was observable, that since some Members of North Britain were come up from thence, the People were very quiet and easy, and above 11,000 L. had been paid in on the Malt Tax. So the Motion was rejected.

The Lord Carteret's Answer to the late Address of the House of Commons in Ireland, is in Substance, That he is persuaded his Majesty will graciously receive that seasonable Mark of their Duty and Affection to his sacred Person and Government; as it will enable his Majesty to put his Forces on the Irish Establishment into such a Condition as the present Exigencies require, by giving an immediate Credit to the Warrants for clearing the Army & Half-pay Officers.

This Day the Lords compromised a Cause between the Earl of Ferrers Appellant, and the Countess Dowager Ferrers and her Children Respondents.

The Commons read a Petition of Harry Waller Esq; complaining of an undue Election of Mr. Colzior for Chippen Wycomb, and after a long Debate ordered it to be heard at the Bar of the House on Thursday 7 Night, on a Division Yeas 148 Noes 101.

Mr. Hutchison presented a Petition from the Debtors confined in White Chappel Prison, complaining that they have been forced to eat Horse Flesh and drink no Water, and have no Bread, and that they are 130 in Number, and their whole Debts does not amount to 100 L. praying for Relief. Upon which Mr. Young proposed it to lie on the Table, till the second Reading of the Bill to prevent frivolous and vexatious Arrests, and then to refer it to a Committee for the said Bill, in order to relieve them; he was seconded by Mr. Hungerford, who added, that he was always against taking special Bail for trifling Debts, and that this Practice was what filled the Goals of this City and Kingdom. The said Bill is ordered a second Reading Tomorrow Morning.

The Duke of Kingston departed this Life last Saturday.

From the St. James's Evening Post, March 8.

Paris, March 4. The good Understanding 'twixt the Dukes of Orleans and Bourbon is more and more confirmed every Day, and seems to be established upon such a Foot that will not be easily broken.

S. S. Stock 106 1/4th. Yorbuildings 22 1/4th.

¶ The

¶ The Mannour-house of *Grange Muir*, alias *Grange Wemyss*, within the Shire of Fife and Parish of Anstruther-Wemyss, a pleasant Country-seat, consisting of Seven Fire-rooms, whereof one a large Kitchen, with a large Wardrobe or Garret, and 2 Closets, besides other Conveniences, together with good Office-houses, such as Barn, Byer, Stable, Hen-house, a good Orchard with a Flower-plot, a Dovecot, nine Acres of arable Ground, Grass for 2 Cows, and 2 or 3 Horses, with a Brew-house, 2 good Cellars, a large Loft for Vidual, and the Conveniency of a Rivulet near the House fit for washing: All to be sett for One or more Years. The Conditions to be seen at Mr. John Macfarlane Writer to the Signet his Writing-chamber, and with Mr. Wemyss, Principal Clerk of the Post-office Edinburgh, and at Bailie William Halson's in Anstruther.

¶ That there is a fine House of Three Storeys high, each Storey consisting of four Fire-rooms with Closets, all well finished, besides the Garrets compris'd, whereof three are Fire-rooms, making in all Fifteen Fire-rooms; with a Garden, Bowling-green, and several other Conveniences, adjacent thereto, all lying at the Potter-row Port, with 4 Acres of arable Land: To be Sett, either in Whole or in Parts. The Entry to be immediately, or at Whitsunday. Enquire at the Author of this Paper, or at the Laigh Coffee-house, about the Conditions. N. B. There is a Stable and Coach-house contiguous.

¶ That there is a Lodging about the Middle of the Canongate, North-side of the Street, (presently posselt by my Lord Kimmergham) to be sett or sold at Whitsunday next. Enquire at Mr. David Watson Writer in Edinburgh, in Craig's Close.

¶ Whereas there has been a malicious and invective Report spread abroad for some Weeks past: "That James Wat, Brewer in Orchardfield, alias Livingston's Yards, had got 2500 l. sterl. or thereby, and a Gold Watch, from James late Lord Ogilvie in the Year 1715, for which there should have been a Receipt or Obligation granted; and that Diligence being us'd for the same, he was obliged to betake himself to the Abbey." All which is most false and injurious, as will appear by a Letter from the said James late Lord Ogilvie to the said James Wat, now in his Hands, a Copy whereof is subjoined: And therefore, that such malicious Practices may be detested, and the Authors punished according to Law, the said James Wat promises a Reward of Ten Guineas to any who shall discover the Authors of this Report, so as they, or any of them, may be convicted thereof.

Follows the Letter from the said James late Lord Ogilvie to the above James Wat.

Dumfries, 24 March, 1726.

"I had yours of the 28th of February last: And in Answer thereto, I must own, That I did never see you in the Face, or know you by another Man, or had any Dealings with you: Nor did I ever intrust you with the Sum of 2500 l. sterl. as is falsely reported, or any Sum less or more, Gold Watch, or any Goods whatsoever, either by Writ or without it. And I do think, such Mistrusts are injurious Reflections against me, as well as designed against your Credit: And if you can be informed of the Authors, I think you should prosecute them as Law allows. And for your further justification, I allow you to publish this in the Prints. I am, Sir, your most humble Servant.

J. A. OGILVIE.

Directed thus, To James Wat, Brewer in Orchardfield near Edinburgh, otherwise called Livingston's Yards.

By Order of the COMMISSIONERS of Excise.

Whereas by an Act of Parliament made in the 8th Year of Her late Majesty Queen ANNE, all Persons whatsoever making CANDLES for Sale, or not for Sale, are obliged to give Notice in Writing, at the next Excise Office, of the Places, &c. where they make such Candles, (unless they compound for the Duty thereof) to the end that the proper Officers may take an Account of the Candles by them so made, under the Penalty of Fifty Pounds sterling. Also by an Act made in the 10th Year of Her said late Majesty, all Persons who shall Print, Paint, Stain, or Dye any SILKS, CALICOES, LINEN, or STUFFS, (other than such as shall be dyed throughout of one Colour only, or whereof the greatest Part, in Value, shall be Woollen) are obliged to give Notice in Writing, at the next Office for the same Duties, of their respective Names and Places of Abode, and of the Place or Places where they print, paint, stain or dye, &c. under the Penalty of Thirty Pounds sterling.

And by an Act made in the 10th Year of His present Majesty's Reign, no Person whatsoever is to roast any COFFEE-BERRIES, at any Place or Town, but such only as are publicly appointed for that Purpose by the COMMISSIONERS of Excise, under the Penalty of Forfeiture of all such Coffee-berries, and Five Shillings for every Pound weight.

Now the COMMISSIONERS being informed, That many Persons not only have made, but continue to make Candles, without giving such Notice as aforesaid, to the great Detriment of the fair Trader, who pays Duty for the same; as also, That many Persons continue to print, paint, stamp or dye Silks, Calicoes, Linens, &c. without giving due Notice as aforesaid, and to roast Coffee-berries, contrary to Law: This is to give Notice to all Persons concerned, That unless they forthwith yield Obedience to the Laws in these Matters, they will (whenever discovered) prosecuted in the strictest Manner the Law admits of.

Nota. The only Person appointed in North-Britain for roasting of Coffee, is James Muirhead, Coffee-house Keeper in Edinburgh.

Signed by Order of the saids COMMISSIONERS,
RICH. DODSWELL, Secretary.

Excise Office, March 5, 1726.

¶ That the Paper-Mill of Pennycook, Office-houses, and half Percinents, Instruments for making Paper, with an Acre of Ground presently in the Tacksmens Possession, with 4 Acres of Ground or thereby subsett, and posselt by Robert Wilson, Tenant of the Corn-mill there, and others thereto belonging; lying on the Water of Esk, in the Parish of Pennycook and Sheriffdom of Edinburgh, formerly belonging to the deceased Mrs. Anderson, her late Majesty's Printer, now to her Representatives: Are to be sett in Tack for the Space of an Year and an half after Whitsunday 1726, and 8 Nineteen Years thereafter, by way of publick Roup, by virtue of the Lords of Council and Session their special Act and Warrant for that Effect, upon Thursday the 17th of March Inst. betwixt the Hours of 3 & 4 in the Afternoon, in the Parliament or New Session-house of Edinburgh. The principal Tack, Conveyance thereof, Act and Warrant of the said Lords, and Conditions of Roup, are all to be seen in the Hands of Thomas Gibson, one of the Under-clerks of Session, or in the Hands of James Johnston Writer in Edinburgh, to be found at the Laigh Coffee-house, or his Chamber in the Castlehill. N. B. The Purchaser may be free of the Lands contained in the Tack, if he pleases; and there are several Privileges in the Tack very beneficial to the Purchaser.